UNITED
NATIONS

DP

Governing Council
of the
United Nations
Development Programme

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/1992/2
11 December 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Organizational meeting
10 February 1992, New York
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Note by the secretariat

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirty-eighth session (1991), the Governing Council considered the report of the Administrator (DP/1991/58) on biennialization or triennialization of subjects on the agenda of the Governing Council. A draft decision on this subject was presented by Germany and the United States of America (DP/1991/WP.32).

2. In paragraph 1 of its decision 91/51 of 25 June 1991, the Council decided to transmit the text contained in document DP/1991/WP.32 concerning matters relating to the work of the Governing Council for consideration at its organizational meeting in February 1992. In paragraph 2 of decision 91/51, the Council requested the Administrator to forward to the Council at its organizational meeting in February 1992 an updated version of the table of subjects on the agenda in various years contained in paragraph 17 of document DP/1991/58. In paragraph 1 of its decision 91/53 of 25 June 1991, the Council decided to review the provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session at its organizational meeting in February 1992, within the context of its review of matters relating to the work of the Governing Council.

3. Accordingly, the Governing Council has before it under this item the following:

(a) Document DP/1991/WP.32 containing the draft decision transmitted from the thirty-eighth session;

(b) An updated version of the table of subjects considered by the Council in various years (see section IV below);

(c) The provisional agenda for the thirty-ninth session (DP/1992/L.3).

II. APPEAL FROM THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL TO REVIEW ITS MEETING AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

4. At its 1991 substantive session, held from 19 to 22 August 1991, the Committee on Conferences considered a report from the Secretary-General (A/AC.172/145) on meetings of organs and programmes not funded from the regular budget of the United Nations. The Committee on Conferences, in view of the substantial amount of conference servicing provided for UNDP, appealed to the Governing Council of UNDP to review its meeting and documentation requirements, in the light of the significant financial implications.

5. This question was discussed further at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The outcome of the deliberations in the Fifth Committee will be communicated orally to the Council during the discussion of this item.

6. The Governing Council may therefore wish to review its meeting and documentation requirements, following the appeal of the Committee on Conferences and taking into account the discussion and any resolutions adopted at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly on this matter.

III. PREVIOUS DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL REGARDING BIENNIALIZATION OR TRIENNIALIZATION

A. High-level debate

7. By its decision 91/1 of 22 February 1991, the Governing Council decided, on an experimental basis, to dispense with the general debate in budget years (odd years), beginning in 1991, thereby making a three-week session possible. The Council also agreed that the objective to have a high-level segment dedicated to major policy reviews by the Governing Council remains valid and that the high-level policy reviews take place every even year.

8. At its thirty-eighth session (1991), the Governing Council, in paragraph 2 of its decision 91/53 of 25 June 1991, decided that the policy review item to be considered at the high-level segment of its thirty-ninth session (1992) shall be the annual report of the Administrator for 1991 and the priority areas identified therein.

B. Specific subjects

9. In paragraph 3 (f) of section I of decision 81/37 of 27 June 1981, the Governing Council decided to conduct a broad policy review of other funds and programmes under its supervision biennially. In paragraph 2 of section III of its decision 87/1, and in paragraphs 1 and 2 of section A of the annex, the Governing Council approved on an experimental basis the biennialization of reports of the special funds administered by UNDP other than UNIFEM. It was also decided that reports concerning matters on which consensus was not

achieved at previous sessions, relating to amendments of the financial regulations of UNDP, would be taken up biennially.

10. At the organizational meeting for 1991, the Governing Council, by its decision 91/1, indicated its willingness to continue its practice, when drafting decisions, to consider carefully in each case, when the request for a report is made, the possibilities for biennialization or even triennialization.

IV. TABLE OF SUBJECTS

11. The following is an overview of subjects considered by the Governing Council in 1991 and subjects scheduled to be considered in 1992 and the two subsequent years, as requested by the Council in paragraph 2 of its decision 91/51:

	Years for consideration of items			
<u>High-level segment</u>		1992		1994
<u>Annual report of the Administrator</u>	1991	1992	1993	1994
including, <u>inter alia</u>, the following:				
Steps taken by UNDP in response to action taken by the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations system	1991	1992	1993	1994
Implementation of selected country programmes	1991	1992	1993	1994
Progress report on the implementation of three evaluations (91/26)		1992		
International Year for the World's Indigenous People (91/12)		1992		
<u>Programme-level activities</u>				
Human development	1991	1992	1993	1994
Management Development Programme	1991		1993	
Technical cooperation among developing countries	1991		1993	
Non-governmental and grass-roots organizations	1991		1993	

	Years for consideration of items			
Women in development	1991		1993	
Role of UNDP in combating HIV and AIDS	1991		1993	
Micro-capital grants		1992		
Environment		1992	1993	
Private sector in development (91/11)		1992		
Regional economic integration (91/10)			1993	
Special programmes of assistance				
UNDP Gulf Task Force	1991	1992	1993	
Role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990	1991	1992		
Transport and Communications Decade in Africa	1991			
Least developed countries	1991		1993	
Humanitarian programmes (including refugees, displaced persons and returnees)	1991	1992		1994
Assistance to national liberation movements		1992		1994
Assistance to the Palestinian people	1991	1992	1993	1994
Assistance to Yemen (91/19) (included in report on matters relating to the fifth programming cycle)		1992		
Assistance to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen (91/20)		1992		
UNDP participation in international cooperation to address and mitigate the consequences of the accident at Chernobyl (91/23) (oral report)		1992		

	Years for consideration of items			
Programme implementation				
Evaluation	1991	1992	1993	1994
National execution	1991	1992		1994
Programme approach (91/27)		1992		
Efficiency of programming (91/31)			1993	
Programme planning				
Country and intercountry programmes and projects	1991	1992	1993	1994
Reports on mid-term reviews of country and intercountry programmes	1991			1994
Matters relating to the fifth programming cycle	1991	1992	1993	1994
Funding strategy	1991			
Support costs: successor arrangements	1991	1992	1993	1994
Sectoral support	1991			
United Nations Population Fund	1991	1992	1993	1994
United Nations technical cooperation activities	1991	1992	1993	1994
Other funds and programmes				
United Nations Capital Development Fund	1991		1993	
United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration and United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development	1991		1993	
United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office	1991		1993	
United Nations Development Fund for Women	1991		1993	
United Nations Volunteers programme		1992		1994

	Years for consideration of items			
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters				
Annual review of the financial situation (including trust funds)	1991	1992	1993	1994
Revised budget estimates for biennium	1991	1992	1993	1994
Budget estimates for next biennium	1991		1993	
Audit reports	1991	1992	1993	
Report on the status of management services		1992		1994
Financial regulations: Matters on which consensus has not yet been achieved		1992		1994
Procurement from developing countries	1991		1993	
Other matters				
Senior management structure	1991	1992		
Standing Committee for Programme Matters	1991			
United Nations system regular and extrabudgetary technical cooperation expenditures (the document concerning the year 1991 will not be available until after the closure of the thirty-ninth session on 29 May 1992)	1991		1993	1994
Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit of interest to UNDP	1991	1992	1993	1994
Rationalization of the work of the Governing Council	1991	1992	1993	1994
Arrangements for the Governing Council: venue (91/50)		1992		